

Claims;

1. An electrostatic latent image developing toner which comprises colored particles, comprising a resin and a colorant, and external additive particles, wherein a volume average particle diameter of the toner is 4.0 - 8.0 μm and a sum of the colored particles and the external additive particles having particle diameter of at most 2.5 μm is 0.1 - 10 percent by volume based on the sum of the colored particles and the external additive particles.
2. The electrostatic latent image developing toner of claim 1 wherein the sum of the colored particles and the external additive particles having particle diameter of at most 2.5 μm is 0.3 - 8 percent by volume based on the sum of the colored particles and the external additive particles.
3. The electrostatic latent image developing toner of claim 1 wherein the external additive particles having particle diameter of at most 2.5 μm is 0.5 - 5 percent by volume based on the sum of the colored particles and the external additive particles.

4. The electrostatic latent image developing toner of claim 1 wherein colored particles having particle diameter of at most 2.5 μm is 9 percent or less by volume based on the colored particles.

5. The electrostatic latent image developing toner of claim 4 wherein colored particles having particle diameter of at most 2.5 μm is 0.05 - 8 percent by volume based on the colored particles.

6. The electrostatic latent image developing toner of claim 1 wherein the external particles having particle diameter of at most 2.5 μm is 5 percent or less by volume based on the external additive particles.

7. The electrostatic latent image developing toner of claim 3 wherein the external particles having particle diameter of at most 2.5 μm is 0.05 - 5 percent by volume based on the external additive particles.

8. The electrostatic latent image developing toner of claim 1, wherein

colored particles of at most 2.5 μm is 9 percent or less by volume based on the colored particles,

external additive particles having particle diameter of at most 2.5 μm is 0.05 - 5 percent by volume based on the external additive particles, and

a volume average particle diameter of the toner is 4.0 - 8.0 μm and sum of the colored particles and the external additive particles of at most 2.5 μm is 0.1 - 10 percent by volume based on the sum of the colored particles and the external additive particles.

9. An image forming method comprising steps of:

electrically charging a photoreceptor;
imagewise exposing the photoreceptor so that a latent image is formed on the photoreceptor; and

developing the latent image with toner so that a toner image is formed on the photoreceptor;

transferring the color image on the photoreceptor to a image supporting material, and

fixing the transferred color image,

wherein the method employs a toner as claimed in claim 1, and a toner image formed on an image support is fixed employing a contact heating system.

10. An image forming method comprising steps of:
 - electrically charging a photoreceptor;
 - imagewise exposing the photoreceptor so that a latent image is formed on the photoreceptor; and
 - developing the latent image with toner so that a toner image is formed on the photoreceptor;
 - transferring the color image on the photoreceptor to an intermediate transfer body,
 - transferring the color image on the intermediate transfer body to an image supporting material, and
 - fixing the transferred color image,wherein the method employs a toner as claimed in claim 1.

11. A method of forming a toner image, comprising steps of:
 - (a) forming a color image on a photoreceptor by repeating steps of, employing a toner having a different color in each step:
 - electrically charging a photoreceptor;

imagewise exposing the photoreceptor so that a latent image is formed on the photoreceptor; and developing the latent image with toner so that a toner image is formed on the photoreceptor;

(b) transferring the color image on the photoreceptor to a image supporting material, and

(c) fixing the transferred color image,

wherein each toner is a toner as claimed in claim 1.

12. A method of forming a toner image, comprising steps of:

(a) forming a color image on an intermediate transfer body by repeating steps of, employing a toner having a different color in each step:

electrically charging a photoreceptor;
imagewise exposing the photoreceptor so that a latent image is formed on the photoreceptor; and
developing the latent image with toner so that a toner image is formed on the photoreceptor;

transferring the toner image on the photoreceptor to the intermediate transfer body,

(b) transferring the color image on the intermediate transfer body to a image supporting material, and

(c) fixing the transferred color image on the image supporting material,
wherein each toner is a toner as claimed in claim 1.